

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended)

A condiment dispenser for dispensing particulate materials, said dispenser comprising:

(a) an elongated tubular upper body portion with a central longitudinal axis, said body portion being substantially symmetrical about said axis and having an outer wall and a pair of opposed ends and a hollow interior for holding a supply of said materials;

(b) a top structure for closing said tubular body at one of said ends;

(c) a tubular bottom structure having a grippable outer wall and defining an outlet opening for selectively dispensing pre-measured quantities of said material through said outlet opening, and supporting said tubular body vertically on a support surface;

(d) said bottom structure including a rotor mounted to rotate about said longitudinal axis of said body and drivably coupled to said outer wall of said bottom structure;

(e) a holding structure having a plurality of material holding compartments of a shape matching the shape of said outlet opening,

(f) said rotor being drivable coupled to create rotation of said compartments relative to said outlet to

successively discharge the contents of said compartments downwardly through said outlet=;

(g) said outer wall of said bottom structure being aligned with said outer wall of said tubular body so that said outer walls together form the outer wall for said dispenser.

2. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 1 in which said top structure includes rotatable attachment/detachment means including screw threads to enable easy attachment/detachment to said body.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended)

A dispenser as in Claim 4 1 in which said outer wall of said rotor has an upper end and a lower end, said lower end having a diameter greater than said upper end.

5. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 2 in which said top structure has a longitudinally-slidable dispensing spout extendable away from and slidable towards said body to close said spout.

6. (currently amended)

A dispenser as in Claim ~~3~~ 1 in which said outer wall of said rotor has a substantially frustro-conical shape, with the largest diameter thereof at the bottom edge, said bottom edge defining a support plane for supporting said dispenser vertically on a support surface.

7. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 1 including a slidably mounted cover for said outlet opening, said cover being adapted to be slidable between a first position covering said outlet opening and a second position in which it does not cover said outlet opening.

8. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 1 including a cover for said outlet opening, said cover being mounted to rotate about said longitudinal axis between a first position covering said outlet, and a second position in which said outlet is not covered.

9. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 1 including a ring member with a plurality of detent recesses, an alignment and detent mechanism including said ring and a ring-shaped spring member having an offset portion for fitting successively into each of a plurality of detent recesses, each adapted to align said outlet opening with each of said compartments upon rotation of said spring member relative to said ring member.

10. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 9 in which said offset portion is shaped and positioned to snap into each detent recess with a "click".

11. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 9 in which said offset portion has an engagement edge for engaging one wall of each of said recesses to prevent rotation of said rotor in one direction.

12. (currently amended)

A dispensing container for dispensing comestible materials in pre-measured quantities from said dispensing container comprising:

a manually holdable container for containing said material;

a dispensing mechanism secured to said container, said dispensing mechanism having a circular first member with a plurality of radial compartments and a gate member with an outlet opening, said gate member and said first member being rotatably mounted with respect to one another to successively empty said compartments through said outlet opening;

a detent mechanism comprising a plurality of recesses in a circular array around the periphery of said first member;

a ring-shaped spring member with an offset portion shaped to fit into said recesses with said outlet opening in alignment with one of said compartments at each of said recesses; ~~and~~

said ring-shaped spring member being made of stainless steel and having a pair of notches and said gate member having a pair of projections to fit into said notches to hold said spring

and said gate member to rotate together relative to said first member; and

said ring-shaped spring member being shaped to ride up and out of each of said recesses and to be thrust, by spring action, into the next recess with a detectable click.

13. (previously presented)

A dispenser as in Claim 12 in which said ring-shaped spring member is split and has an edge to engage with a wall of each of said recesses to provide a stop against rotation of said gate member relative to said first member in one direction of rotation.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended)

A condiment container with a retractable pouring structure, said container comprising

a housing body having at least one side wall, a bottom portion and a top portion,

a pouring structure having a slider structure with a cap, said slider structure being shaped and dimensioned to slidably fit on said top portion so as to be slidable towards and away from said body,

said slider structure forming a dispensing opening for said housing when said slider structure is positioned away from said body=;

said top portion of said container having a vertical recess shaped to receive and protect said slider from contact with condiments in said container.

16. (previously presented)

A container as in Claim 15 in which said housing side wall has a rotary lower portion mounted to rotate about the longitudinal axis of said housing,

a measuring dispensing mechanism in said housing and a dispensing opening in said bottom portion,

means for drivably coupling said rotary lower portion of said housing to said dispensing mechanism,

whereby pre-determined quantities of a condiment can be dispensed from the bottom of said housing by rotating said lower portion.

17. (previously presented)

A container as in Claim 15 in which said top portion of said housing has a support structure for supporting said housing in a holding structure with support arms for engagement with said support structure.

18. (previously presented)

A container as in Claim 15 in which said housing is substantially cylindrical.

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously presented)

A container as in Claim 16 in which said container has an opening in the bottom, and said dispensing mechanism includes a plurality of compartments, each containing a pre-measured quantity of said condiment when full, and a gate with a hole and means for moving each compartment in sequence to release the contents thereof through said opening.